Chapter 14:
RECKLESS

...THE KID... CAP'N... BUGGY...

HUF HUF

WEEZ WEEZ

S-SORRY... CAPTAIN...

I'VE GOT TO TELL HIM THAT THE KID IS A RUBBER MAN...

AHOY! FIRST MATE MOHJI'S BACK!

G-GOT TO TELL HIM...

...UNDER... ESTIMATED HIM.

THE KID...

WEEZ WEEZ

HUF HUF

WUP WUP

CAP'N... SIR... BEWARE... THE RUB-

THE KID!? THE KID IN THE STRAW HAT BEAT *YOU*!?

NOT ZOLO!?

FWUMP

...MAN...

WORB WORB

...RUB...!!

...RUB-

READ THIS WAY

WHAT KIND OF RUB COULD DO THAT TO A MAN!?

"BEWARE THE RUB!?"

HE COULD BARELY STAND! MUST HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT...

MOHJI WAS TRYING TO TELL US SOME-THING.

WHAT'D HE SAY?

AR! THE SKIP-PER'S GOT IT!

!

HMM... THAT BOY MUST HAVE USED SOME DIABOLICAL RUBBING TECHNIQUE ON HIM...!

LOAD THE BUGGY BALLS, YOU SWABS!! WE'VE A TOWN TO DESTROY!!

AYE AYE, CAP'N BUGGY!

RUBBER MAN...

BEATEN BY A MASSEUR?! IF THIS GETS OUT, OUR REPU-TATION'S SCUTTLED!

DARN YOU, MOHJI!

HEY! IT'S CHOUCHOU FROM THE PET FOOD SHOP!

WHAT'S THAT!?

THE REFUGE OF THE TOWNS-PEOPLE

TMP

TMP

TMP

TMP

TMP

HE'S HURT BAD. CURSED PIRATES!

IT'S CHOUCHOU!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE OKAY, BOY! WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

LET'S TAKE CARE OF HIS WOUNDS.

THAT'S RIGHT...! MAYOR BOODLE WENT TO FEED CHOUCHOU.

MURMUR

MURMUR

WHAT'S CHOUCHOU DOING HERE WITHOUT HIM?

BUT WHERE'S THE MAYOR?

HE KNOWS THIS TOWN BETTER THAN ANYONE.

NOW DON'T GO OFF HALF-COCKED! THE MAYOR'S TOO CLEVER TO LET HIMSELF GET CAPTURED.

I'LL GO FIND HIM!

THIS ISN'T GOOD...

YOU DON'T THINK SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE MAYOR?

MURMUR MURMUR

I KNOW, I KNOW. I'M JUST GOING TO FEED CHOUCHOU!

WHAT MATTERS IS THAT WE'RE ALL SAFE. AS LONG AS WE ALL SURVIVE, WE CAN REBUILD THIS TOWN.

DON'T TAKE ANY UNNECESSARY RISKS NOW, MAYOR.

BUT HE ALSO ***CARES*** ABOUT THE TOWN MORE THAN ANYONE. MAYBE TOO MUCH.

I WARNED HIM NOT TO TAKE ANY RISKS. I JUST HOPE HE HEARD ME.

STP

?

READ THIS WAY

HUH?

SORRY I YELLED AT YOU!

...

NOT THAT I WANT TO HEAR THE DETAILS OR ANY-THING...

THAT'S OKAY. I KNOW YOU LOST SOMEONE TO PIRATES.

I UNDER-STAND...

AAAAH!

HUH!?

I CAN'T STANDS IT NO MORE!!!

UNGRRRR!!

WHAT KIND OF MAYOR STANDS BACK AND WATCHES HIS TOWN BE DESTROYED!?

I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE OF THEIR CRUEL BULLYING! NOT AFTER THE WAY CHOUCHOU AND THIS KID FOUGHT BACK SO BRAVELY!

BWAH.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SONNY?

SOMETIMES, A MAN'S GOTTA DO WHAT A MAN'S GOTTA DO!

MAYOR, PLEASE! CALM DOWN!

DOOK

YOU SAID IT, OLD MAN!!

THAT'S RIGHT!!

THIS PLACE WAS A WILDERNESS WHEN WE GOT HERE.

SHAAA

FORTY YEARS OF HARD WORK!!

?

DON'T ENCOUR-AGE HIM!!

!

"WE'LL FORGET OUR OLD TOWN THAT THE PIRATES DESTROYED."

"WE'LL BUILD OUR TOWN RIGHT HERE!"

BUT SLOWLY OUR NUMBERS GREW.

AT FIRST, IT WAS JUST A FEW HOMES.

WE WORKED HARD, CLEARED THE LAND. OVER TIME PEOPLE CAME AND OPENED UP SHOPS.

HENKUTSU

TA-DA

WE OLD TIMERS BUILT THIS TOWN FROM NOTHING!

AND LOOK AT US NOW! WE'RE A THRIVING PORT!

IT'S *OUR* LIFE'S WORK!

THIS TOWN AND ITS PEOPLE ARE MY TREASURE!

...

I'M GONNA FIGHT!!!

I'D BE A SORRY EXCUSE FOR A MAYOR IF I DIDN'T TRY TO PROTECT THE TOWN!

KABOOM

!!!?

FIRE THE BUGGY BALL!!!!

OOOO

ARRGH!

KYAA!!

...!!

HEY!

ZOLO WAS SLEEPING IN THERE!

MY HOUSE! IT'S RUINED!

NNGH!

WHOOO...!!!

...!!!

KLAK KLAK

!

HUH?

HEY, ZOLO!!! ARE YOU ALIVE!?

COULD THE KID WITH THE BELLY-BAND HAVE SURVIVED THAT!?

THAT'S ONE HECK OF AN ALARM CLOCK!

TA-DA!

UNGHH!

READ THIS WAY

HOW COULD ANYONE LIVE THROUGH THAT!?

...

YOU'RE ALIVE!

HEY!

I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE! I WON'T LOSE A SECOND TOWN TO THOSE SEA RATS!

WOOO...

MAYOR!

FWAP!!

...!!

THAT TEARS IT!

I WON'T TAKE THIS SITTING DOWN!

I'M THE MAYOR!!!

BUT I WON'T LET 'EM WRECK FORTY YEARS OF HARD WORK!!!

GRR

THESE PIRATES SHOW UP, THINK THEY CAN DO AS THEY PLEASE...

GETTING YOURSELF KILLED WON'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING! YOU'RE BEING RECKLESS!!

LET ME GO, GIRLIE!

IT'S TIME TO FIGHT!

MAYOR! WAIT, PLEASE!!

BAM

I KNOW I'M BEING RECKLESS!!!!

!

ARGHHH!

PREPARE TO FACE THE MAYOR!

BUGGY THE CLOWN!!

TMP TMP TMP TM... ...MP

IT DIDN'T LOOK THAT WAY TO ME!

THE MAYOR...

...HE WAS CRYING!!

I WON'T LET HIM GET KILLED!

DON'T WORRY, I LIKE THAT OLD MAN!

THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!

HA HA HA! YEAH!

THINGS ARE FINALLY GONNA GET FUN!

WE'LL STEAL THAT MAP BACK, AND THEN WE CAN GO THERE TOGETHER!

WE'RE HEADED FOR THE "GRAND LINE"!

HOW CAN YOU JUST STAND THERE LAUGHING? WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF THIS ANYWAY?

I WON'T BECOME A PIRATE!

...

!

JOIN UP WITH US!

YOU WANT THE MAP AND ALL THAT TREASURE, RIGHT?

LET'S JUST SAY WE'LL "JOIN FORCES"...

WORK TOGETHER FOR A COMMON GOAL!!

SWAP!

AIM! FI--

AYE AYE, CAP'N!

NOW FOR THE SECOND SALVO!

GET OUT HERE! NOW!!!

Drinker Pub

BUGGY THE CLOWN!!!

BA-BAM

WE

WHO DARES?

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

THEY GOT BETTER.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR WOUNDS?

YOU'RE COMING TOO?

PNP

SK RK!!

LET'S DO IT.

I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT MY REPUTATION THAN MY GUTS, RIGHT NOW. I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE!

YOU TWO ARE CRAZY!

I-DOOR

I CAN'T WAIT!

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

VIKINGS, PART 3

- When I was a kid, I used to enjoy watching an animated tv seres called **Chiisa na Viking Bikke** ("Little Viking Vicke").The show was about the adventures of a Viking boy named Vicke, who wasn't very strong but was very clever, and a group of Vikings who were very strong but not so smart. Their adventures were very fun and entertaining.

- It aired over 15 years ago, so a lot of people of my generation (I'm 23) remember it from childhood. If it ever gets rebroadcast, you should definitely check it out! That's probably how I started liking pirates.